

Ordinarily, I am not compelled to provide input into matters before the Commission. RM-10352, calling for separation of wideband and narrowband modes on the 160 meter Amateur band, has piqued my interest, however. This proposal is well thought out and timely. As we approach the solar minima a greater number of Amateurs will migrate to the lower frequencies. Some will be in search of the elusive "rare one" while pursuing DX interests. Others will utilize the band for regional chats. As presented in the Petition, these two facets of the service have, until recently, co-existed fairly peacefully. With greater interest in the band in recent years there have been a few skirmishes, with the occasional challenge of any voluntary band plan as "not binding". We have reached the time in this band's history to segregate wide- and narrowband operation as a matter of communication law. The proposal is not onerous on any segment of the Amateur population; quite the opposite, it sets apart territory for each specialized facet of the service. The Petition refers a number of times to "fences". As I read this proposal I couldn't help but recall the old saying "fences make good neighbors".